Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 Attorney Docket No.: 042206

Application No.: 09/988,336

Art Unit: 2623

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 26-35 and 40 are

pending in this application. Claims 26-35 and 40 stand rejected.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 26-32, 34 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by

Thibadeau (USP 5,565,909, previously cited) in view of Freeman (USP 5,682,196). Claim 33

is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Thibadeau and Freeman in view

of Reams (USP 5,907,793, previously cited). Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

being unpatentable over Thibadeau and Freeman in view of Banker (USP 5,317,391,

previously cited). For the reason set forth in detail below, reconsideration of the rejections under

\$102 and \$103 are respectfully requested.

In the previous response, it was argued that none of the cited prior art discloses or suggest

the "means for supplying the selected advertising information to the output means in response to

reception of a timing signal, said timing signal being a beacon signal." The Examiner found

these arguments to be persuasive. The Examiner has now applied the Freeman reference, in

combination with the other previously cited references, to teach the claimed "means for

supplying...in response to reception of a timing signal, said timing signal being a beacon signal."

As will be discussed in detail below, it is respectfully submitted that the Freeman

reference does not disclose or suggest the claimed "means for supplying the selected advertising

information to the output means in response to reception of a timing signal, said timing signal

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being a beacon signal," and therefore the various combinations of references do not result in the

claimed invention.

Freeman discloses an interactive video system that provides personalized audio

responses for multiple viewers. In particular, according to Freeman, a large number of viewers

watch a 3D video presentation on a large screen 20 (e.g., a movie theater), and each viewer can

receive a personalized audio feedback through a set of headphones. See, e.g., col. 2, lines 63-66;

col. 3, lines 43-44; and col. 4, lines 56-59.

As shown, e.g., in Figs. 1 and 3a, each viewer wears an interface unit 28, such as a helmet

74, that allows a user to select a particular audio response simply by looking at various options

displayed on the screen 20 (see col. 10, lines 46-61). As shown in Fig. 3a, the helmet 74 includes

receiving antennas 76, 80 and a partition 72 that function in conjunction with a reference beacon

signal to determine where the viewer is looking with respect to the various options displayed on

the screen 20 by detecting the orientation of the viewer's head (see col. 10, line 62- col. 11, line

22).

The Examiner relies on the reference beacon signal disclosed by Freeman to teach the

claimed "means for supplying the selected advertising information to the output means in

response to reception of a timing signal, said timing signal being a beacon signal." The reference

beacon signal is an RF or infrared signal that is generated by an RF or infrared transmitter 24

located at the front of the theater. The orientation of the viewer's head (i.e., looking left, right or

straight ahead) is determined by determining whether the reference beacon signal is occluded by

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the partition 72, and thus not received by the receiving antenna 76 or the receiving antenna 80.

See col. 11, lines 7-15 and 23-43.

However, it is submitted that the reference beacon signal of Freeman is not a "means for

supplying the selected advertising information to the output means in response to reception of a

timing signal, said timing signal being a beacon signal."

As noted above, the reference beacon signal of Freeman is a signal that is used to

determine the orientation of a viewer's head based on whether the reference beacon signal is

received by an antenna 76 or an antenna 80 on a helmet worn by a viewer. Based on the detected

orientation of the viewer's head, an individualized audio is supplied to the viewer. However,

unlike the claimed invention, the reference beacon signal of Freeman is not a timing signal in

response to which selected advertising information is supplied to an output means.

Thus, it is the orientation of the user's head that determines when a particular audio is

output to the user. The beacon signal does not determine when (i.e., timing of) a particular audio

is output to the use.

Further, Freeman is completely silent with respect to outputting selected advertising

information received by a digital broadcasting receiving device in response to the beacon signal.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that neither Thibadeau nor Freeman disclose or

suggest outputting, in response to a beacon timing signal, advertising information selected from

advertising information received by a digital broadcasting receiving device.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Thibadeau and

Freeman does not result in the invention recited in independent claim 26. Claims 27-35 and 40

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depend from independent claim 26 and patentably distinguish over the combinations of

references for the same reason set forth above by virtue of their dependency on claim 26.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for

allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of

allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application,

the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated

below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate

extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect

to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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